

LIGHTS! ACTION! CAMERA! . . . In his first role as a director, James Cagney (seated, center) observes leading lady Georgann Johnson being "captured" in one of the scenes from the new Paramount production.

"Short Cut to Hell," recently filmed at the Harvey Aluminum plant at 190th St. and Western Ave.



SEASON OPENED . . . The Little League season in Torrance was opened here with a parade and afternoon of baseball yesterday. Here the parade makes its way down Cabrillo Ave. toward the Plaza Del Amo park to get the serious part of the day under way—the ball game.



"UM-M GOOD!" . . . As a part of the homemaking program at Flavian Elementary School, girls in cooking classes serve their cookies to children in the lower grades. This provides instructions for the young cooks and refreshments for the smaller children. Vicki Garrod and Sharon Chaplin serve samples of their cooking to Kathy Northrup, Philipp Conly, John Rott, and Joyce House.

### Gary Rickard Wins Eagle Award at 14

Winner of the highest honor in Scouting, the Eagle award, at 14 years old.

That's the record of Gary Rickard, fast-working member of Explorer Troop 315-X, who passed all the requirements for the award while he was still 13. Formal presentation of the award was made at a Court of Honor of Scout Troop 315 and his own Explorer unit.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Rickard, 1577 W. 210th St., Gary is den chief for Den 1 of Pack 254 C, a member of the Order of the Arrow, and the National Rifle Assn. He is currently competing in his God and Country Award at the First Baptist Church. He is a ninth grader at Steven M. White Junior High School.

Scout officials said it is quite unusual for a boy to win the top Scouting award while so young. Most of the holders of the coveted honor have much more time in Scouting than Gary, whose favorite hobbies are science and water sports. At the same court of honor, tenderfoot badges were presented to Leon Carpenter, Gene Hamada, and John Olson; a second class award went to Alan Bishop; and star awards were given to Larry Miller and Ricky Donaldson. The troop charter was presented by the neighborhood commissioner Harold Unander, to the new governor of the sponsoring Moose Lodge. Fred Lydy, Earl Cook, post chairman, presented registration cards and year pins to the troop committeemen.

The Explorer post also participated in the junior leader training and explorer leader training program's annual Navy dinner aboard the anti-submarine carrier U.S.S. Princeton in the Long Beach Naval shipyard.



GARY RICKARD . . . Eagle Scout at 14



THE KIDDIES HOUR . . . Moppo the Clown, in real life Eddie Johnson, passes out balloons at the climax of an exciting performance here as members of the Torrance Optimist Club played hosts to their children during the regular Monday night meeting last week. More than 50 children, ranging in age from 2 to 15 were on hand for the affair.

## THE MAIL BOX

The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for matters of libel and good taste. Letters should be kept brief and must be signed. The writer's name will be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.

### For Thinking Adults

Editor, Torrance HERALD: I've been quite concerned about the numerous letters in your paper asking for the return of the grade system.

The reader parents feel that in some magical way a grade system will tell them whether their children are geniuses or idiots. The reasons they give for wanting this system are:

1. "We do not know where our children stand in their education."

2. "Competition is good for children."

Let's consider them. 1. "We do not know where our children stand in their education."

This is indeed a cause for worry. Apparently these parents feel inadequate in judging for themselves how their children are using that wonderful tool called intelligence.

But would an A or B in spelling tell them any better? Can only tell them that an A in that particular grade means that Johnny is tops in that grade. However, in a class of idiots, Johnny still would be only a top idiot, despite the A.

Should Johnny go to another school wherein the children were fast learners, he may only get a D. Does this mean that we's learned more in the former school because his report card consisted of all A's? I doubt it. A teacher cannot give individual attention except within limits and

must necessarily limit her teaching to the group learning ability. In my opinion, a system of grading is simply a guide to Johnny's application of himself in a certain group. No matter what the terms of the system may be—A, B, C or satisfactory, unsatisfactory.

2. "Competition is good for children." Let us hope so, since it would be impossible to get away from. Competition is always with us.

But the real danger lies not in competition, but what we and our children are competing for.

Is Johnny competing for an A in English or is he competing for more knowledge of literature, better usage of the English language, and how they affect our lives?

Every little child wants to learn. All on his own, he literally gets into everything—tastes, feels, breaks, smells, pulls. He doesn't need competition to learn how to use himself or the things about him.

What happened to that curious baby who learned so much in a few years, but now needs a system to push him to further endeavors? Isn't it time that we examined our own attitudes toward education and took responsibility for them?

How can we tell if children are using their learning abilities? By having discussions with Johnny, know what he reads and reading with him, discovering for ourselves his attitudes toward learning and education, being aware of the

responsibility he takes toward school projects, and what kind of research material he selects for learning. If Johnny doesn't take responsibility for his learning as much as he is able to, isn't it because we haven't taught him this?

I am grateful to the foresighted leaders and the dedicated teachers who are allowing my children to learn at their own speed and can give these same children the freedom to take responsibility for their own learning. Such children may even wind up as thinking adults.

MARY H. WHITE

### Thanks Noted

Editor, Torrance Herald: I wish to thank you on behalf of the American Cancer Society for the cooperation you gave in publishing the press releases for the cancer drive.

MRS. J. W. WOLFE, Publicity Chairman, American Cancer Society Torrance.

### McCarthyism Lives

In the death of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, America has lost the physical presence of the bravest, greatest, truest patriot, servant, and statesman in this critical period of Christian civilization, but McCarthyism is not dead and will not die.

To all who knew him, McCarthyism is Americanism. JANE WARE, 425 W. 235th St. Wilmington.

### Health Film to Teach

#### Care of Newborn Baby

"Care of the Newborn Baby," a film which presents the theories and practices of bringing up baby, has been scheduled for showing at the Torrance Health Center, 2300 Carson St., Thursday, May 9 at 1 p.m., according to Dr. B. A. Kogan, district health officer for the County Health Department.

Prospective parents are invited to these expectant parents classes which meet every Thursday at 1 o'clock.

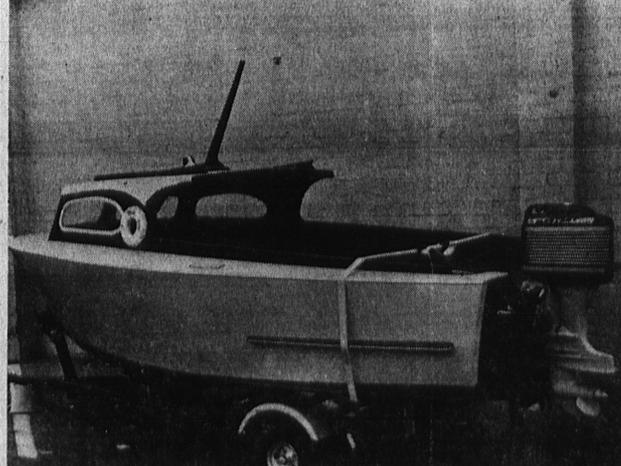
### EXCHANGE CLUBS TO SPONSOR AIR RACES

The Exchange Clubs in the Southwest section of Los Angeles County are presenting a cross country handicap air race from Torrance to Las Vegas and return on July 13th and 14th. Any private pilot may compete for the trophies and prizes. There are no entry fees.

One of the objectives of the National Exchange Club is the promotion of safe flying. This cross country race is an effort by the local clubs to promote the same objective.



CHAMPIONS IN CAST . . . California's first and only world's and Olympic champion, Ronnie Robertson, and his Olympic teammate, California Chado Machado, hear the star studded cast of champions featured in Ice Capades of 1957, which opened its annual engagement on Thursday, May 2, at Pan Pacific Auditorium.



SPORTSMEN'S TROPHY . . . members of the Torrance Rod and Gun Club will award this cruiser June 1 as a climax to their club building fund project which has been under way here for several weeks. The boat is usually on display at the Torrance Cycle and Sport Shop on Marcelina Ave., downtown.